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To: Examiner F. Jaworski Date: March 23, 1998
Art Unit: 3305

Fax #: 1-703-308-7768 Pages: 4

From: Frank S. DiGilio, Esq.

Re: Ted Christopher
U.S. Serial No. 08/746,360
Our Docket: 9872

COMMENTS:

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)

Docket No.
 9872

In Re Application Of: Ted Christopher

Serial No.
 08/746,360

Filing Date
 November 8, 1996

Examiner
 F. Jaworski

Group Art Unit
 330S

Title: FINITE AMPLITUDE DISTORTION-BASED INHOMOGENEOUS PULSE ECHO ULTRASONIC IMAGING

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

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Letter

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in the above identified application.

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Dated: March 20, 1998

Frank S. DiGilio; Reg. No. 31,346

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Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Frank S. DiGilio

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ted Christopher

Examiner: F. Jaworski

Serial No.: 08/746,360

Art Unit: 3305

Filed: November 8, 1996

Docket: 9872

For: FINITE AMPLITUDE DISTORTION-
BASED INHOMOGENEOUS PULSE
ECHO ULTRASONIC IMAGING

Dated: March 20, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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LETTER

Sir:

Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner that applicant's representative has recently had the opportunity to view a limited segment of two video tapes (without audio) which were reportedly presented publicly at a time prior to the filing of the present application. Neither applicant nor applicant's attorney is in possession of either video tape.

The video presentation appears to be directed to an ultrasound system used to present the cardiac anatomy of a dog. The tapes purport to show (in the absence of any accompanying sound) a baseline image generated by an ultrasound system prior to the injection of contrast agents into (the blood stream of) the subject cardiac system viewed. In the baseline mode (as well as in the contrast mode) shown in one tape, a reference to

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Dated: March 20, 1998

FD
Frank S. DiGiglio

"second harmonic" appears in the frame as the contrast agent appears to be injected into the subject, causing enhancement of the cardiac image.

It is understood that the contrast agents utilized in these videos generate an enhanced amplitude return echo at a frequency other than the principle frequency, in order to be distinguished from the echo signal generated from the tissue itself. Accordingly, the reference to the "harmonic" mode or "second harmonic" was apparently used in anticipation of receiving and displaying an echo from the contrast agents and not the native tissue. Any baseline "image" which was presented in the video was the result of the reflection of the principle frequency and a number of harmonics including the first, second, third and n^{th} harmonics, as component parts. As presented by the video, only undifferentiated harmonics are provided in the baseline mode, which frequencies derive from the reflection of a series of sine waves used to generate the principle frequency transducer pulse in the first instance. It is apparent that no effort was indicated in either of these tapes to take advantage of the harmonic principle generated by the tissue (to the exclusion of contrast agents) underlying the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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FSD/jc